

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

(11) Publication number:

0 358 492
A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 89309043.1

(51) Int. Cl.⁵: G 06 F 15/20

(22) Date of filing: 06.09.89

(30) Priority: 09.09.88 JP 224449/88

(43) Date of publication of application:
14.03.90 Bulletin 90/11

(84) Designated Contracting States: DE FR GB

(71) Applicant: International Business Machines Corporation
Old Orchard Road
Armonk, N.Y. 10504 (US)(72) Inventor: Kanai, Naoki Mezondohru Azari 202gohshitsu
2ban 18goh, Kohenjikita 4-chome Suginami-ku
Tokyo (JP)(74) Representative: Burt, Roger James, Dr.
IBM United Kingdom Limited Intellectual Property
Department Hursley Park
Winchester Hampshire SO21 2JN (GB)

(54) A spreadsheet system.

(57) A spreadsheet system comprising:
a display means for displaying a spreadsheet;
a means for inputting relations of a plurality of cells and cell values of said spreadsheet;
a means for establishing a model including a relational node corresponding to the inputted relation, a cell node corresponding to the cell on which said relation is satisfied, an arc linking said relational node with said cell node, and a description describing a propagating direction of a change based on the input of said cell value through said arc;
a means for marking on said calculation model one path or all of a plurality of paths through which the changes based on the input of said cell value are propagated;
a means for determining one of said paths in accordance with predetermined rules;
a means for performing a recalculation based on said input cell value in accordance with said determined path; and
a means for reflecting the performed result of the recalculation of said spreadsheet.

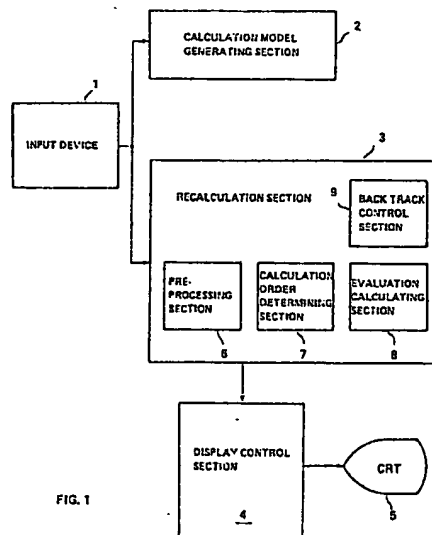


FIG. 1

EP 0 358 492 A2

Description

A SPREADSHEET SYSTEM

The present invention relates to a spreadsheet system for processing data displayed on a spreadsheet, and particularly to the apparatus capable of recalculation in both directions.

So far, there has been known a spreadsheet program language program in which a table is constructed by a plurality of cells prepared for storing the data, a calculating procedure of the cell value is stored therein, and the other cell values are automatically calculated based on the cell value changes by the user. Such program as, for instance, Multiplan (Trademark) by the MICROSOFT Corp. and Lotus 1-2-3 (Trademark) by the Lotus Development Corp. are known.

These conventional programs, however, have the following disadvantages. In these programs, the calculating procedure of the cell value is expressed by a function formula. Hereinafter, a cell whose value determination procedure is described by a function formula is called a "function value cell", and the cell referred to in the function formula is called a "variable value cell". Fig. 26 shows exemplified definitions of the function, formulas. Each of the cell names is the same as that employed in Lotus 1-2-3. At the upper row of the each cell the cell value displayed on the screen is shown. At the lower row the value defined in the cell or the function formula is shown. In this example, the function formula

$A1 \times A2$

is defined for the function value cell B1. In case the value of the variable value cell is changed, the value of the function value cell is automatically recalculated by reevaluating the function formula. For instance, when the value of the variable value cells A1 and A2 are changed to 5 and 16, respectively, as shown in Fig. 27, the value of the function value cell B1 is recalculated and 80 is calculated as the value. However, even if the value of the function value cell is changed, it is impossible to recalculate the value of the variable value cell. For instance, even if the value of the function value cell B1 is changed to 100 as shown in Fig. 28, the values of the variable value cells A1 and A2 are not recalculated. The defined function formula $A1 \times A2$ is deleted instead and the value 100 is defined for the cell B1.

In other words, the conventional technique permits only one-way recalculation.

It is to be noted here that although there are patent publications concerning the technology, such as PUPA numbers 61-138369, 61-138370 and 61-138371, they merely disclose the general tabulations and no bidirectional recalculations.

The present invention has been made taking the foregoing circumstances into account, and has an object of providing a spreadsheet system having a recalculation function in both directions which recalculates the value of the function value cell based on the value change of the variable value cell and recalculates the value of one of the variable value cells based on the value change of the function value cell.

In order to achieve the above object, the present invention produces the calculation model on the basis of the relations of the cells in the calculation procedure of the cell value. In the case where at least one change instruction of the cell value is given, the marking on the produced calculation model is performed to determine the recalculation order of the other cell value, the recalculation order is determined using the marks for the recalculation, and then the recalculation is performed.

According to the present invention, by introducing the recalculation function in both directions to the spreadsheet, a superior function is provided to the user. The features are that when any cell value is directly changed by the user, the other cell values are automatically recalculated, resulting in making the user's work using the spreadsheet easier and smoother.

Brief Description of the Drawings:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram representing one embodiment of the present invention;

Figs. 2, 3 and 4 are drawings for explaining the calculation model utilized in the embodiment;

Figs. 5 through 20 are

drawings for explaining the operations of the recalculation performing section 3 and the respective sections in the above embodiment;

Figs. 21

through 25 are drawings of working examples employing the above embodiment;

and Figs. 26, 27 and 28 are drawings of the conventional technique.

In the drawings the numbers represent the following integers:-

1 ... Input device, 2 ... Calculation model producing section, 3 ... Recalculation performing section, 4 ... Display control section, 5 ... CRT, 6 ... Pre-processing section, 7 ... Calculation order determining section, 8 ... Evaluation calculating section, 9 ... Backtrack control section

Fig. 1 shows a processing system according to one embodiment of the present invention. This processing system comprises an input device 1, a calculation model generation section 2, a recalculation section 3, a display control section 4 and a CRT 5. The information concerning the relation of the cells is inputted through the input device 1 by the user. The calculation model generation section 2 produces a calculation model on the basis of the inputted relation information. The details of the calculation model generation section 2 will be described later. A change instruction of the cell value is inputted through the input device 1 by the user. The

recalculation section 3 changes the corresponding cell value in accordance with the inputted change instruction and recalculates the other cell values by using the calculation model. The recalculation generation section comprises a pre-processing section 6, a calculation order determining section 7, an evaluation calculating section 8 and a backtrack control section 9. The recalculation section will also be described in detail later. The result of the recalculation performing section 3 is displayed on the CRT5 by the display control section 4.

The calculation model generation section 2 produces the calculation model which will be described in (2) based on the information concerning the relation of the cells which are inputted by the user and will also be described in (1), thereby enabling the performing the recalculation in both directions.

(1) The information concerning the relations of the cells comprises a relation formula of cell and a propagation constraint cell.

The relation formula is expressed by:

$$Y = f(X_1, \dots, X_n)$$

where Y, X_1, \dots , and X_n are names of cells in which Y is a function value cell and X_i ($1 \leq i \leq n$) is a variable value cell.

The propagation constraint cell is one of the variable value cells and is to be recalculated based on the value change of the function value cell. There, an inverse function for determining the value of the propagation constraint cell should be developed in accordance with the relation of the cells as shown:

$$X_k = f^{-1}(Y, X_1, \dots, X_{k-1}, X_{k+1}, \dots, X_n)$$

where X_k is the propagation constraint cell.

(2) The calculation model comprises a relational node representing the relation, a cell node representing the cell, and an arc linked with these nodes. Each of the relational nodes is distinguished from the others by the inherent relation name. The relational node includes the relation formula as the data. Each of the cell nodes is distinguished from the others by the inherent cell name. The cell node includes the cell value as data. The arc is expressed by a pair nodes consisting of the cell node and the relational node linked by the arc. The arcs are classified into three kinds. the first arc links the cell node representing the function value cell with the relational node and its direction is from the relational node to the cell node. The second arc links the cell node representing the variable value cell with the relational node and its direction is from the relational node to the cell node. The third kind arc links the other cell node with the relational node and is not directional. The information concerning the cell node, the relational node and the arc is controlled, for example, so that their respective information is recorded in a table.

The calculation model will be explained with reference to the drawing. Fig. 2 shows a calculation model of the relation f of the cells Y, X_1 and X_2 . A pentagon 11 indicates the relational node. Rectangles 12, 13 and 14 indicate the cell nodes. The arc represented by the arrow from the top end of the pentagon is the arc linking the cell node representing the function value cell with the relational node and the direction of the arrow represents the arc direction. In Fig. 2, an arc 15 corresponds to this arc and is linked with the cell node Y (Y is the relation value cell). The arc represented by the arrow from the base of the pentagon links the cell node indicating the propagation constraint cell with the relational node and the direction of the arrow indicates the direction of the arc. In Fig. 2, an arc 16 corresponds to this arc and is linked with the cell node X_1 (X_1 is the propagation constraint cell). The other arc from the base of the pentagon links the cell node which is not the propagation constraint cell but the variable value cell with the relational node. In Fig. 2, an arc 17 corresponds to this arc and is linked with the cell node X_2 (X_2 is not the propagation constraint cell, but the variable value cell).

The recalculation on this calculation model is performed in accordance with the following rules.

First, in case attention is paid to one relation, the value of the function value cell is recalculated when the value of the variable value cell is changed and the value of the function value cell is not changed. Fig. 3 shows an example of the recalculation of the relation f. In this example, since the value of the variable value cell X_2 is changed and the value of the function value cell Y is not changed, the value of Y is recalculated.

Second, in case attention is paid to one relation, the value of the propagation constraint cell is recalculated when the value of the function value cell is changed and the value of the propagation constraint cell is not changed. Fig. 4 shows an example of the recalculation on the relation f. In this example, since the value of the function value cell Y is changed and the value of the propagation constraint cell X_1 is not changed, the value of X_1 is recalculated.

The recalculation performing portion 3 changes, in accordance with the change instruction of the cell value by the user, the corresponding cell value and recalculates the values of the other cells based on the calculation model.

It is to be noted that the recalculation based on the relation is performed after completion of the recalculations for all cells for which recalculation may be required based on other relations. For instance, when the value of the cell A1 is changed as shown in Fig. 5, after the values of the cells B1 and B2 are recalculated in accordance with the relations R1 and R2, the value of the cell C1 is recalculated in accordance with the relation R3.

Furthermore, the recalculation performing portion 3 copes with two problems, due to the possibility of recalculation in both directions, as follows:

The first problem resides in a loop produced in the recalculation procedure. Fig. 6 shows a state of the loop production. Referring to Fig. 6, on performing the recalculation of the relation R1, the value of the function

recalculation section 3 changes the corresponding cell value in accordance with the inputted change instruction and recalculates the other cell values by using the calculation model. The recalculation generation section comprises a pre-processing section 6, a calculation order determining section 7, an evaluation calculating section 8 and a backtrack control section 9. The recalculation section will also be described in detail later. The result of the recalculation performing section 3 is displayed on the CRT5 by the display control section 4.

The calculation model generation section 2 produces the calculation model which will be described in (2) based on the information concerning the relation of the cells which are inputted by the user and will also be described in (1), thereby enabling the performing the recalculation in both directions.

(1) The information concerning the relations of the cells comprises a relation formula of cell and a propagation constraint cell.

The relation formula is expressed by:

$$Y = f(X_1, \dots, X_n)$$

where Y , X_1, \dots , and X_n are names of cells in which Y is a function value cell and X_i ($1 \leq i \leq n$) is a variable value cell.

The propagation constraint cell is one of the variable value cells and is to be recalculated based on the value change of the function value cell. There, an inverse function for determining the value of the propagation constraint cell should be developed in accordance with the relation of the cells as shown:

$$X_k = f^{-1}(Y, X_1, \dots, X_{k-1}, X_{k+1}, \dots, X_n)$$

where X_k is the propagation constraint cell.

(2) The calculation model comprises a relational node representing the relation, a cell node representing the cell, and an arc linked with these nodes. Each of the relational nodes is distinguished from the others by the inherent relation name. The relational node includes the relation formula as the data. Each of the cell nodes is distinguished from the others by the inherent cell name. The cell node includes the cell value as data. The arc is expressed by a pair nodes consisting of the cell node and the relational node linked by the arc. The arcs are classified into three kinds. the first arc links the cell node representing the function value cell with the relational node and its direction is from the relational node to the cell node. The second arc links the cell node representing the variable value cell with the relational node and its direction is from the relational node to the cell node. The third kind arc links the other cell node with the relational node and is not directional. The information concerning the cell node, the relational node and the arc is controlled, for example, so that their respective information is recorded in a table.

The calculation model will be explained with reference to the drawing. Fig. 2 shows a calculation model of the relation f of the cells Y , H_1 and X_2 . A pentagon 11 indicates the relational node. Rectangles 12, 13 and 14 indicate the cell nodes. The arc represented by the arrow from the top end of the pentagon is the arc linking the cell node representing the function value cell with the relational node and the direction of the arrow represents the arc direction. In Fig. 2, an arc 15 corresponds to this arc and is linked with the cell node Y (Y is the relation value cell). The arc represented by the arrow from the base of the pentagon links the cell node indicating the propagation constraint cell with the relational node and the direction of the arrow indicates the direction of the arc. In Fig. 2, an arc 16 corresponds to this arc and is linked with the cell node X_1 (X_1 is the propagation constraint cell). The other arc from the base of the pentagon links the cell node which is not the propagation constraint cell but the variable value cell with the relational node. In Fig. 2, an arc 17 corresponds to this arc and is linked with the cell node X_2 (X_2 is not the propagation constraint cell, but the variable value cell).

The recalculation on this calculation model is performed in accordance with the following rules.

First, in case attention is paid to one relation, the value of the function value cell is recalculated when the value of the variable value cell is changed and the value of the function value cell is not changed. Fig. 3 shows an example of the recalculation of the relation f . In this example, since the value of the variable value cell X_2 is changed and the value of the function value cell Y is not changed, the value of Y is recalculated.

Second, in case attention is paid to one relation, the value of the propagation constraint cell is recalculated when the value of the function value cell is changed and the value of the propagation constraint cell is not changed. Fig. 4 shows an example of the recalculation on the relation f . In this example, since the value of the function value cell Y is changed and the value of the propagation constraint cell X_1 is not changed, the value of X_1 is recalculated.

The recalculation performing portion 3 changes, in accordance with the change instruction of the cell value by the user, the corresponding cell value and recalculates the values of the other cells based on the calculation model.

It is to be noted that the recalculation based on the relation is performed after completion of the recalculations for all cells for which recalculation may be required based on other relations. For instance, when the value of the cell $A1$ is changed as shown in Fig. 5, after the values of the cells $B1$ and $B2$ are recalculated in accordance with the relations $R1$ and $R2$, the value of the cell $C1$ is recalculated in accordance with the relation $R3$.

Furthermore, the recalculation performing portion 3 copes with two problems, due to the possibility of recalculation in both directions, as follows:

The first problem resides in a loop produced in the recalculation procedure. Fig. 6 shows a state of the loop production. Referring to Fig. 6, on performing the recalculation of the relation $R1$, the value of the function

Table 1

Mark Name	Contents of the Mark	5
M-cell	attached to the cell node to be the object of the change instruction by the user or to the cell node on which recalculation has been performed.	10
Input-arc	attached to the arc linking the relational node with the cell node to be the object of the change instruction by the user or with the cell node linked with the arc having a mark of Output arc on the other relations. The Input arc's direction is from the start point of the cell node to the end point of the relational node.	20
Output arc	attached to the arc linking the cell node to be recalculated with the relational node when the cell node linked with the arc which is marked with Input arc is changed. The Output arc's direction is from the start point of the relational node to the end point of the cell node.	25
		30
		35
		40
		45

The pre-processing section 6 first deletes, when the change instruction is inputted by the user, all of the marks M-cell, Input arc and Output arc on the calculation model, changes the value of the cell node to be changed by the user's change instruction to the specified value by the user and marks M-cell on that node. The section 6 also supplies an initializing instruction to the backtrack control section 9 and attaches the marks of Input arc and Output arc to all of the arcs which satisfy the marking condition.

Fig. 8 shows a marking example on the relation $Y = f(X1, X2)$ wherein the propagation constraint cell is represented by X1. Here, when the cell X2 receives the users' change instruction, the cell X2 is marked with M-cell. The mark of Input arc 24 is attached to an arc 21 linking the cell node X2 with the relational node f. Now, when the X2 value is changed, an arc 22 linking the relational node f with the cell node Y is marked with Output arc 25 since X2 is the variable value cell and the cell to be recalculated is the function value cell Y.

Fig. 9 shows the marking state where the cell node Y additionally links the arc marked with Output arc on the other relation in the calculation model of Fig. 8. In this case, the arc 22 between the cell node Y and the relational node f is marked with Input arc 26. When the value of Y is changed, an arc 23 between the relational node f and the cell node X1 is marked with Output arc 27 since the cell to be recalculated is the propagation constraint cell X1.

Hereinafter, the cell node of the start point of Input arc is called a "T-cell" on its relation and the cell of the end point of Output arc is called a C-cell on its relation.

The calculation order determining section 7 determines the order of the cells to be recalculated by using the

mark attached in the pre-processing section 6. The order of the cells to be recalculated is determined by, for instance, a method shown in Fig. 10. In this method, seven rules are used. The respective rules will be detailed below.

The condition and action of the rule 1 are shown in Table 2. The cell whose value has been already changed never becomes an object of recalculation and, therefore, the rule 1 is used to delete the mark of Output arc from the arc linking the cell node which is marked with M-cell. Fig. 11 shows a performing example of the rule 1. In this example, the mark of Output arc 32 is deleted from an arc 31 linking the relational node f with the cell node Y since the cell node Y is marked with M-cell.

Table 2

	(Rule Name)
15	Rule 1
	(Condition)
20	In the case where Output arc is marked on the arc
	linking the cell node marked with M-cell.
25	
	(Action)
30	The marks of these Output arcs are deleted.

The condition and action of the rule 2 as shown in Table 3. The rule 2 is used to decide, when there is only one cell which may possibly have to be the object of the recalculation, whether or not that cell is to be the recalculation object. Fig. 12 shows a performing example of the rule 2. In this example, since there exists only Output arc 41, and an arc 42 having a mark of Output arc 41 which is marked with Input arc 43, the mark of Input arc 43 is deleted.

Table 3

45	(Rule Name)
	Rule 2
50	(Condition)
	In case there is an arc marked with both Output arc and Input arc
	in the arcs linking one relational node, and the arc marked with
55	Output arc is not linked with that relational node.
	(Action)
60	The mark of Input arc is deleted from the arc marked with both
	Output arc and Input arc.

65

The condition and action of the rule 3 are shown in Table 4. The rule 3 is used to perform, when all of the cells which have the possibility of being changed by the other relation have been already changed, the recalculation on the relation. Fig. 13 shows a performing example according to rule 3. In this example, since T-cells are X1 and X2 and are marked with M-cell, the value of cell node Y to which Output arc 51 directs is recalculated. Then, the Y is marked with M-cell and the marks attached to all arcs are deleted.

Table 4

	10
(Rule Name)	
Rule 3	
	15
(Condition)	
In case all of T-cells are marked with M-cell on one relation, and	
the arc marked with Output arc is linked with its relational node.	20
(Action)	
An instruction to perform value recalculation, by using the	25
relation formula of the relational node, of the cell node to which	
Output arc directs is issued to the evaluation calculating section	
8, all of the marks (Input arc and Output arc) on the arc linked	30
with its relational node are deleted, and the cell node whose value	
has been recalculated is marked with M-cell.	35

The condition and action of the rule 4 are shown in Table 5. The rule 4 is used when all of cells having the possibility of being changed by the other relation have already been changed and there is no cell to be the object of the recalculation. Fig. 14 shows a performing example according to the rule 4. In this example, T-cells are Y and X1 and are marked with M-cell. Since there is no arc marked with Output arc but an arc marked with Input arc in the arcs linking the relational node, the rule 4 is applied and the check is performed. All marks on the arcs are deleted.

45

50

55

60

65

Table 5

5	(Rule Name)
	Rule 4
10	(Condition)
	In case all of T-cells on one relation are marked with M-cell,
	there is no arc marked with Output arc in the arcs linked with its
15	relational node, and there is an arc marked with Input arc in the
	arcs linked with its relational node.
20	(Action)
	The evaluation calculating section 8 is instructed to determine
	whether its relation is satisfied or not and all of the marks
25	(Input arc) on the arc linked with its relational node are deleted.

30 The condition and action of the rule 5 are shown in Table 6. The rule 5 is used to cope with the loop. Fig. 15 shows a performing example according to the rule 5. In this example, since there is only one Output arc 61 as the arc having a mark of Output arc linked with the relational node f and the cell node X1 is marked with M-cell, the value of the cell node Y is recalculated and the mark of Output arc 61 is deleted.

35 Fig. 16 shows an example to cope with the loop by the rule 5. In this example, the loop is produced and, therefore, the value of the cell node X2 cannot be recalculated unless the value of the cell node Y is recalculated. In this case, by applying the rule 5 to the relation R1, the Y value is recalculated and the rule 3 becomes applicable to the relation R2. Then, the X2 value is recalculated. Subsequently, the rule 4 is applied to the relation R1 to determine whether R1 is satisfied or not.

40

45

50

55

60

65

Table 6

(Rule Name)	5
Rule 5	
(Condition)	10
In case there is only one arc marked with Output arc in the arcs linked with one relational arc, and there is a cell node marked with M-cell in the T-cells on its relation.	15
(Action)	
The evaluation calculating section 8 is instructed to recalculate the value of the cell node to which Output arc directs by using the relation formula of its relational node, its cell node is marked with M-cell, and the mark of its Output arc is deleted.	20
	25
<hr/>	
The condition and action of the rule 6 are shown in Table 7. The rule 6 is used when the cell to be recalculated varies depending upon the order of the relation to which the rule is applied. Fig. 17 shows a performing example according to the rule 6. In this example, there are two Output arcs 71 and 72 marked on the arc linked with the relational node f. An arc 73 is marked with Input arc 74 and a cell node X2 is marked with M-cell. Here, if the backtrack control section 9 permits the rule 6 to be applied to the relation f, the cell node X1 is marked with M-cell and the Output arc 72 is deleted.	30
In case the cell to be recalculated varies depending upon the order of the relation to which the rule is applied, further recalculation cannot be performed unless the recalculation of the cell value on one of the relations is forcedly performed. In the case of Fig. 18, for instance, the recalculation cannot be continued unless the recalculation on the relation R1 or R2 is forcedly performed. Here, by applying the rule 6 to R1 as shown in Fig. 18(a), the rule may be applied as shown in the drawing thereafter.	35
Consequently, the value of Y is recalculated from R1 and the value of B2 is recalculated from R2. Then, at the time when the state is returned to that before the rule 6 is applied to R1 by backtracking, the value of Y is recalculated from R2 by applying the rule 6 to R2 as shown in Fig. 18(b) and the value of B1 is recalculated from R1.	40
	45
	50
	55
	60
	65

Table 7

(Rule Name)

Rule 6

(Condition)

In case there are two arcs linked with one relational node and marked with Output arc, and one of which is marked with Input arc, there is a cell node marked with M-cell in T-cells on its relation, and the backtrack control section 9 permits the application of the rule 6 to its relation.

(Action)

The backtrack control section 9 is informed that the rule 6 has been applied to its relation, the cell node linked with the arc having a mark of only Output arc is marked with M-cell, and the mark of Output arc is deleted from its arc.

The condition and action of the rule 7 are shown in Table 8. The rule 7 is applied when the object cell to be recalculated varies depending upon the order of the relation to which the rule is applied and the loop is produced. Fig. 19 shows an example of the performance of the rule 7. In this example, both of the arcs 81 and 82 linked with the relational node f are marked with Output arc and Input arc, and the cell node X2 is marked with M-cell. When the backtrack control section 9 permits the application of the rule 7 to the relation f, Output arc 83 is deleted.

In Fig. 20, the object cell to be recalculated varies depending upon the order of the relation to which the rule is applied and the loop is produced. In this case, by applying the rule 7 to the relation R1, as shown in Fig. 20, the rule may be applied thereafter. Consequently, the value of Y is recalculated from R1 and the value of A2 is recalculated from R2. Then, the check of whether or not R1 is satisfied is performed. When the state is returned to that before the rule 7 is applied to R1 through the backtrack, by applying the rule 7 to R2 the values of Y and A2 are recalculated from R2 and R2, respectively, and the check of whether or not R2 is satisfied is performed. The examples thereof are omitted in Fig. 20.

Table 8

(Rule Name)	5
Rule 7	
(Condition)	10
In case there are two arcs linking with one relational node	
and marked with both Output arc and Input arc, there is a	15
cell node marked with M-cell among T-cells on its relation,	
and the backtrack control section permits to the rule 7 to be	20
applied to the relation.	
	25
(Action)	
The backtrack control section is informed that the rule 7 has	
been applied to its relation, and the mark of Output arc is	30
deleted from the arc linking the cell-node representing the	
propagation constraint cell with the relational node.	35
	40
The evaluation calculating section 8 evaluates the recalculation of the cell value and determines whether or not the relation is satisfied in response to the recalculation instruction and the evaluation instruction from the calculation order determining section 7.	
The recalculation of the cell value is carried out as follows. When the cell to be recalculated is the functional cell, the right side of the relation formula is evaluated and its value is set as the value of the function value cell.	45
When the cell to be recalculated is the propagation constraint cell, an inverse function for determining the value of the propagation constraint cell is produced from the relation formula, its inverse function is evaluated and thus the determined value is set as the value of the propagation constraint cell.	
The determination of on whether or not the relation is satisfied is performed by comparing the evaluation value of the right side of the relation formula with the value of the function value cell. If the two values are not the same, the user is warned thereof.	50
The phenomenon in which the cell to be recalculated is varied depending upon the order of the relation to be performed is caused when there is a plurality of relations to which the rules 6 and 7 are applicable. Therefore, the backtrack control section 9 should record, at the time when these rules are applied to the relation, the state of the calculation model such as the value of each cell and the marking state, and should return to the state in which the state has been recorded in response to the driving of the backtrack.	55
Moreover, the backtrack control section 9 should control the system so that these rules are never applied to the same relation more than once on the same calculation model state.	
The backtrack control section 9 has the following functions.	
The first function is to record, when the beginning of the performance of the rules 6 and 7 has been reported, the calculation model state thereat for the backtracking and the record of which rule is applied to which relation at the calculation model state (this record is called an "application record of the rule at the calculation model state").	60
The second function is to judge whether the rule 6 may be applied to a given relation. It investigates the application record of the rule at the state of the calculation model thereat, and permits the rule 6 to be applied	65

to the relation if there has been no application of the rule 6 to the relation. The application is not permitted in other cases. This function is used to inhibit the application of the rule 6 more than once to the same relation at the same calculation model state.

The third function is to judge whether the rule 7 may be applied to a given relation. It investigates the application record of the rule at the calculation model state thereat, and permits to apply the rule 7, if there has been no application of the rule 7 to the relation and there has been no application of the rule 6 to any relation at the calculation model state, to the relation. The application of the rule 7 to the relation is not permitted in other cases. This function is used for two purposes. One purpose is to inhibit the application of the rule 7 to one relation more than once at the same calculation model state. Another purpose is to inhibit the application of the rule 7 when there is the application record of the rule 6 at the calculation model state because the rule 6 has a higher priority than that of the rule 7. A more detailed explanation is as follows:

First it is assumed that there are N relations to which the rule 6 is applicable at the calculation model state and a relation to which the rule 7 is applicable. Then, the rule 6 is first applied in consideration of the priority. Since there are N relations to which the rule 6 is applicable, the rule 7 becomes applicable after performing the backtracking N times. Here, if the rule 7 is applied, although the rule

6 was applicable at the calculation model state the rule 7 having a lower priority becomes being applied. Therefore, the application of the rule 7 should be inhibited.

The fourth function is to perform the backtrack. The backtrack control section 9 executes the following processes in response to the instruction of the backtrack:

(1) The actual calculation model state is returned to the state of the latest calculation model recorded and the process (2) is performed. The backtracking is completed if there is no record of the calculation model state.

(2) The recalculation is performed if there is an applicable rule. If there is no applicable rule and the state record of the calculation model utilized in the process (1), all of the application records of the rules at the calculation model state thereat are deleted. Then, the process (1) is performed.

The fifth function is an initializing function to delete all of the state records of calculation models and the application records of the rules.

The following is a working example of the spreadsheet using the example of the loan repay calculation according to the present invention.

When making the loan repayment schedule, the method allocating the amounts of the monthly repayments and the repayments by bonus must be considered. This may be easily coped with by the recalculation function in both directions according to the present invention. In Fig. 21, a cell B2 represents the loan amount for monthly repayment; a cell B3 represents the loan amount for bonus repayment; and a cell B4, the total amount of the loan. Cells C2 and C3 are the repayment amounts each time for a loan of ten thousand yen. A cell D2 is a monthly repayment amount, and D3 is a repayment from each bonus. Furthermore, three relations are defined among these cells as shown in Fig. 21.

It is to be assumed here that thirty million yen is necessary for the loan. On inputting that value to the cell B4 as shown in Fig. 22, the value of the cell B2 is first recalculated in accordance with the relation (1), then the value of the cell D2 is recalculated in accordance with the relation (2). As a result, it is understood that one hundred and eighty thousand yen repayment each month is enough.

Now, in order to limit the monthly repayment amount to a maximum of one hundred and twenty thousand yen, an input of 120,000 to the cell D2 is enough. Consequently, as shown in Fig. 23, the value of the cell B2 is first recalculated in accordance with the relation (2), the value of the cell B3 is then recalculated in accordance with the relation (1), and finally the value of the cell D3 is recalculated in accordance with the relation (3). It is understood that a payment of five hundred thousand yen from every bonus is enough in this case.

However, if it is impossible to repay more than four hundred twenty thousand yen from each bonus, an input of 420,000 to the cell D3 is enough. As a result, as shown in Fig. 24, the cell B3 is first recalculated in accordance with the relation (3), the cell B2 is then recalculated in accordance with the relation (1), and finally the cell D2 is recalculated in accordance with the relation (2). It is understandable that the monthly repayment of one hundred twenty nine thousand six hundred yen is enough.

Furthermore, if there is a limitation that the loan amount must be a multiple of one million yen and therefore the loan amount for the bonus is set at eight million yen, an input of 8,000,000 to the cell E3 is enough. Consequently, as shown in Fig. 25, the cell B2 is first recalculated in accordance with the relation (1), the cell D3 is recalculated in accordance with the relation (3) and the cell D2 is then recalculated in accordance with the relation (2). It is now understood that a monthly repayment of one hundred and thirty two thousand yen and a repayment of four hundred thousand yen from each bonus are enough.

The explanation of the embodiments is now completed.

Claims

1. A spreadsheet system comprising:

a display means for displaying a spreadsheet;

a means for inputting relations of a plurality of cells and cell values of said spreadsheet;

a means for establishing a model including a relational node corresponding to the inputted relation, a cell

node corresponding to the cell on which said relation is satisfied, an arc linking said relational node with said cell node, and a description describing a propagating direction of a change based on the input of said cell value through said arc;

a means for marking on said calculation model one path or all of a plurality of paths through which the changes based on the input of said cell value are propagated;

a means for determining one of said paths in accordance with predetermined rules;

a means for performing a recalculation based on said input cell value in accordance with said determined path; and

a means for reflecting the performed result of the recalculation of said spreadsheet.

2. A spreadsheet system comprising:

a means for inputting relations of a plurality of cells and cell values of said spreadsheet;

a means for establishing a calculation model including a relational node corresponding to the inputted relation, a cell node corresponding to the cell on which said relation is satisfied, an arc linking said relative node with said cell node, and a descriptor describing a propagating direction of a change based on the input of said cell value through said arc;

a means for marking on said calculation model on path or all of a plurality of paths through which the change based on the input of said cell value are propagated;

a means for determining one of said paths in accordance with predetermined rules;

a means for performing a recalculation based on said input cell value in accordance with said determined path;

a means for reflecting the performed result of the recalculation on said spreadsheet;

a means for displaying that there exists one path or a plurality of paths on which the recalculation has not been performed;

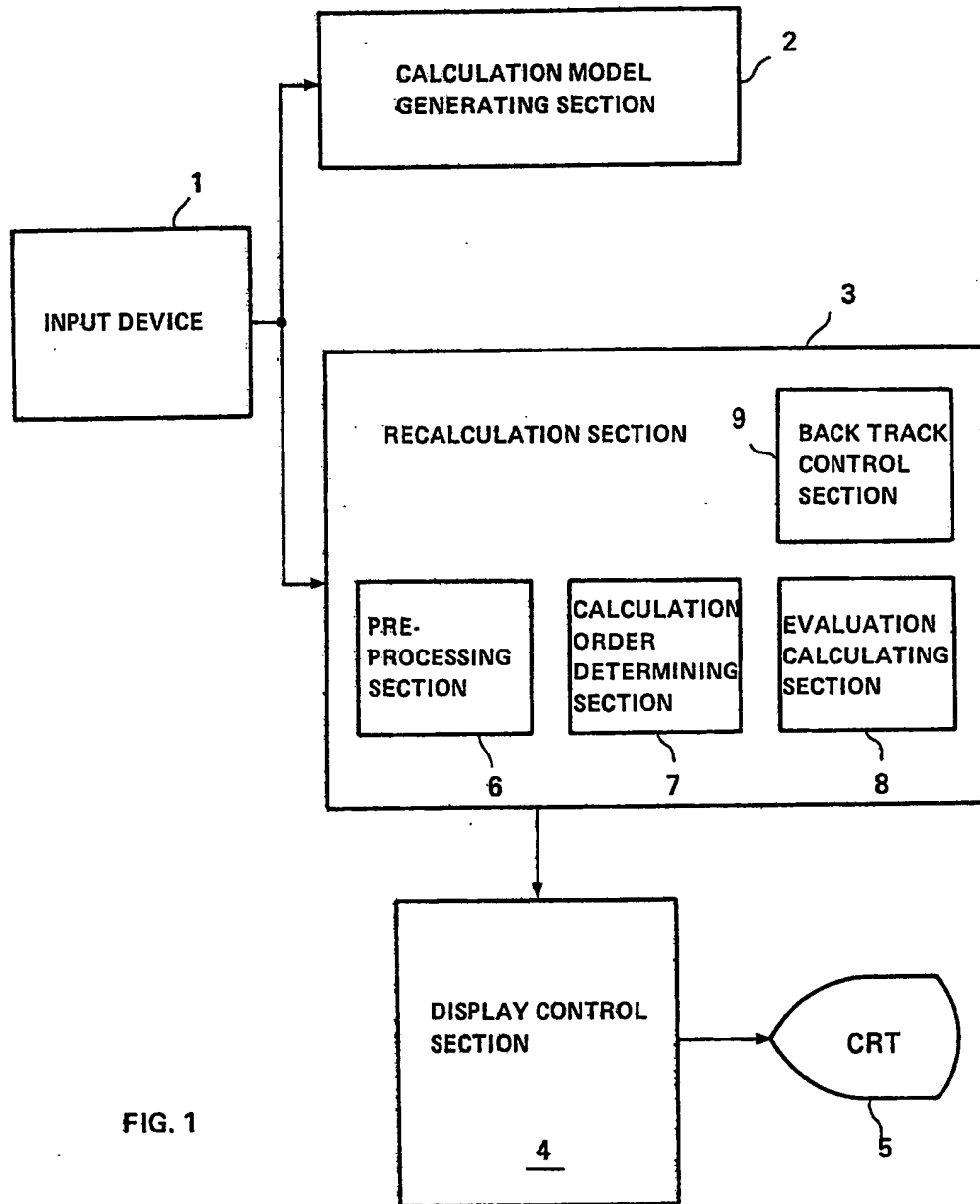
a means for receiving a recalculation request in accordance with the paths not performed;

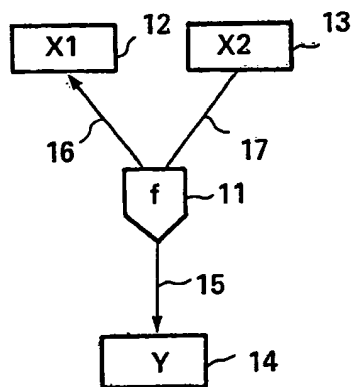
a means for determining one of said paths not performed in accordance with said rules;

a means for performing the recalculation based on said cell value in accordance with the determined path not performed; and

a means for reflecting the performed result of the new recalculation on said spreadsheet.

3. A spreadsheet system according to Claim (1) or (2), wherein by using the relation concerning the cell which receives the performed result of the recalculation and the other cell values having said relation, the value to be employed of the cell receiving the performed result is developed, and this value is compared with said performed result, thereby making it possible to judge the unity of said recalculation.





RELATION NAME : f
 RELATION FORMULA : $Y = X1 + X2$
 PROPAGATION CONSTRAINT CELL : $X1$

FIG. 2

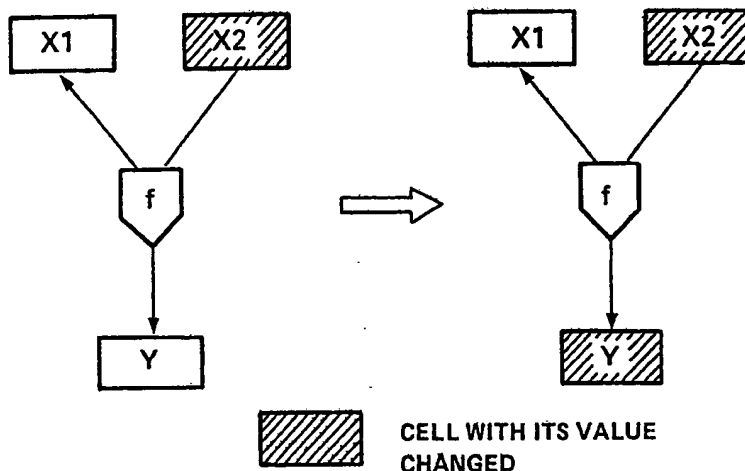


FIG. 3

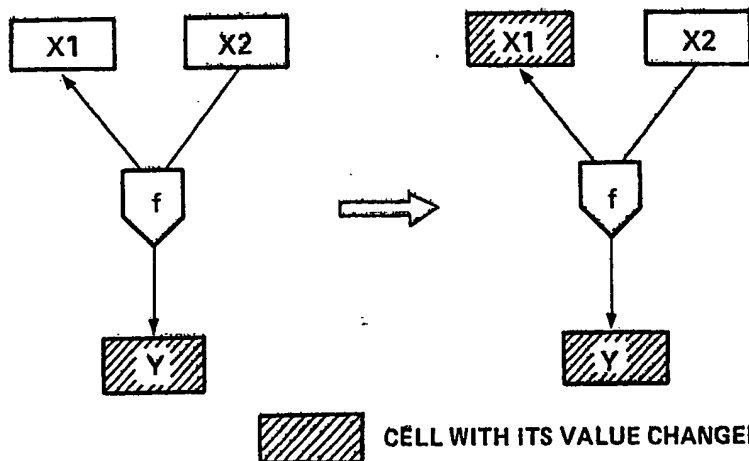


FIG. 4

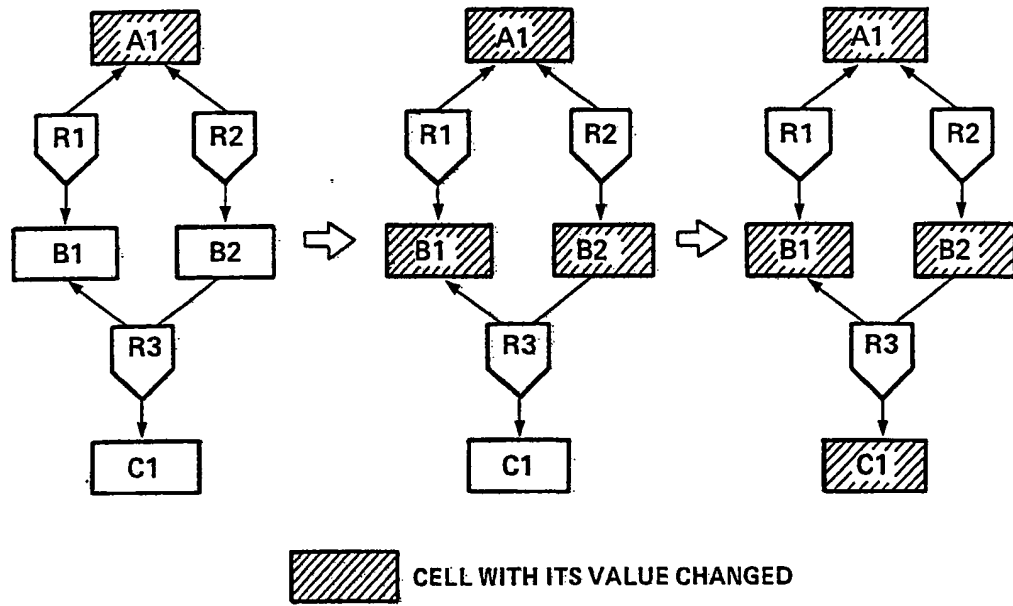


FIG. 5

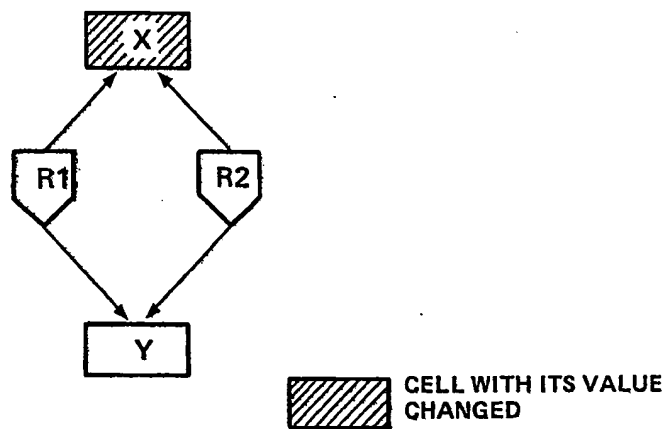


FIG. 6

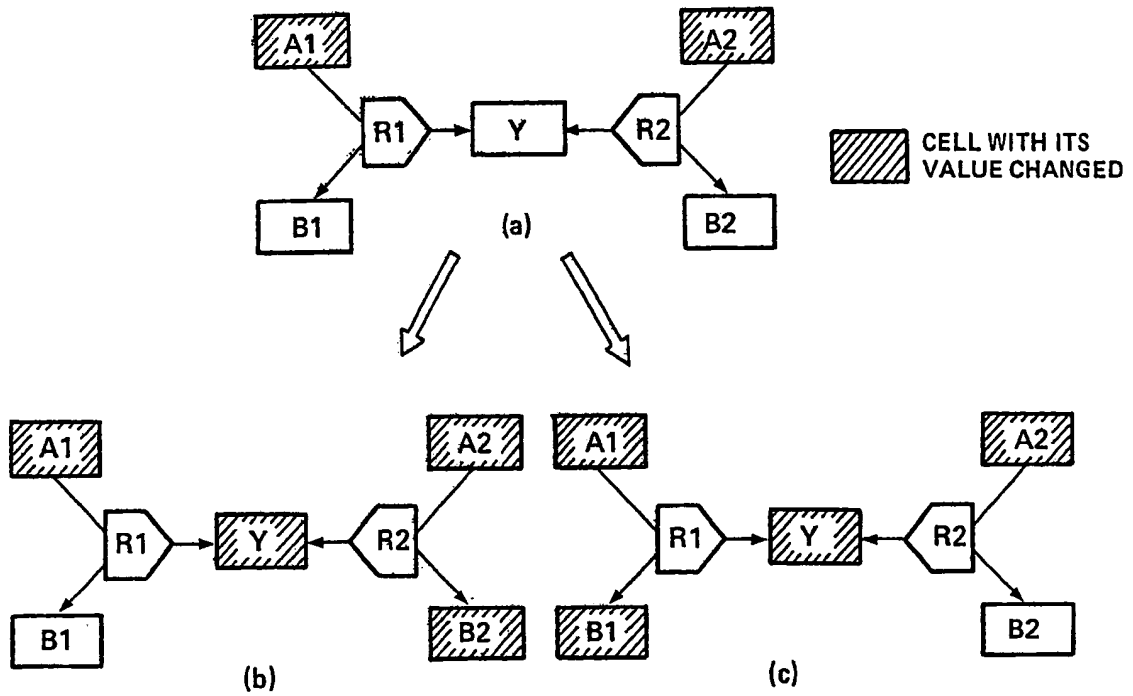


FIG. 7

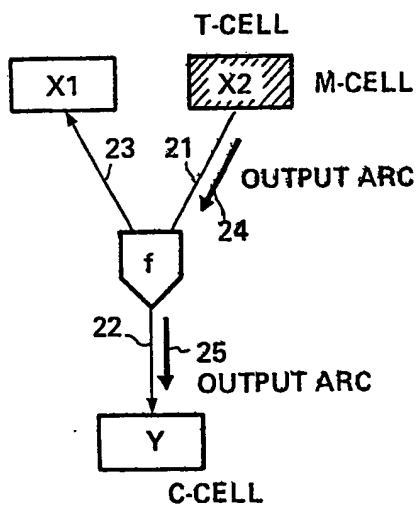


FIG. 8

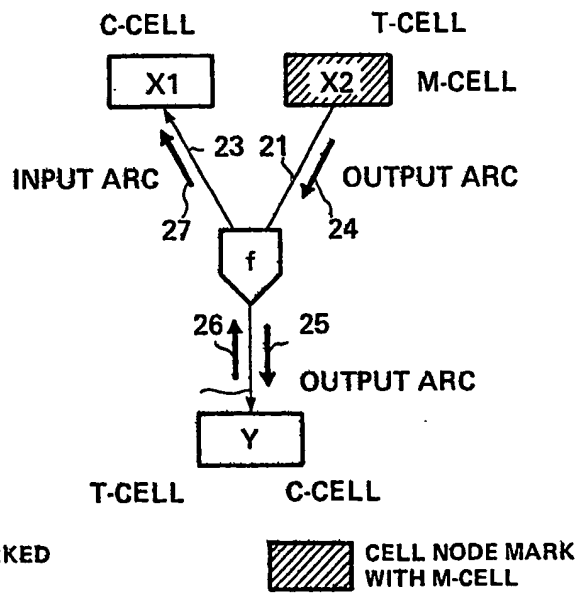


FIG. 9

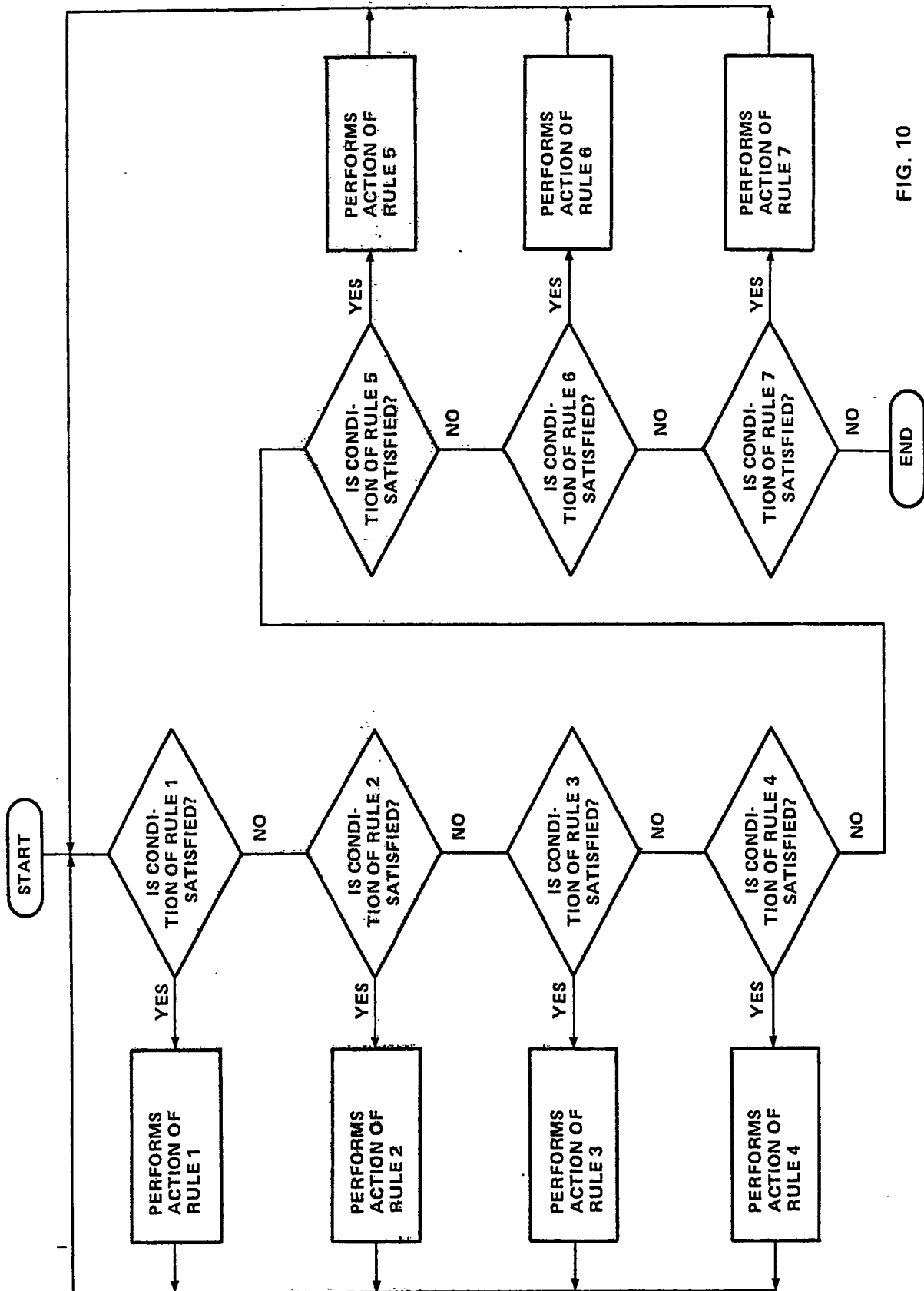
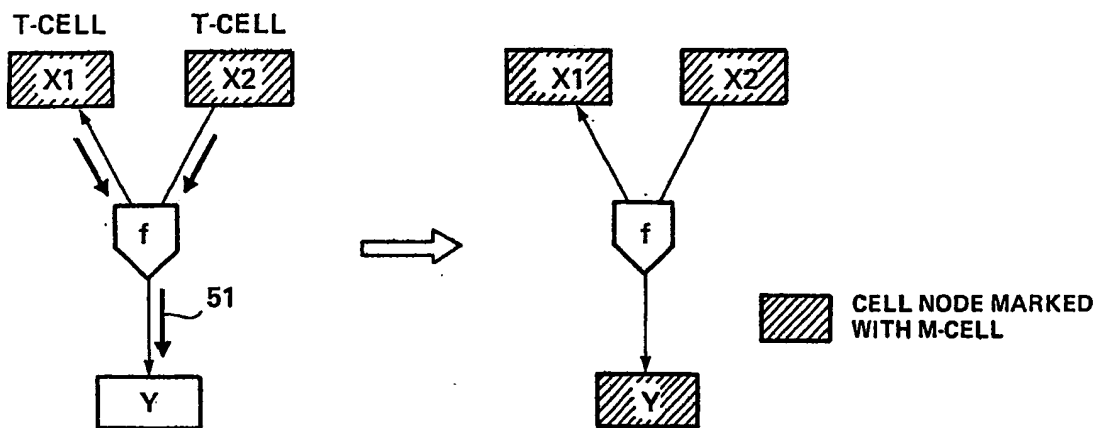
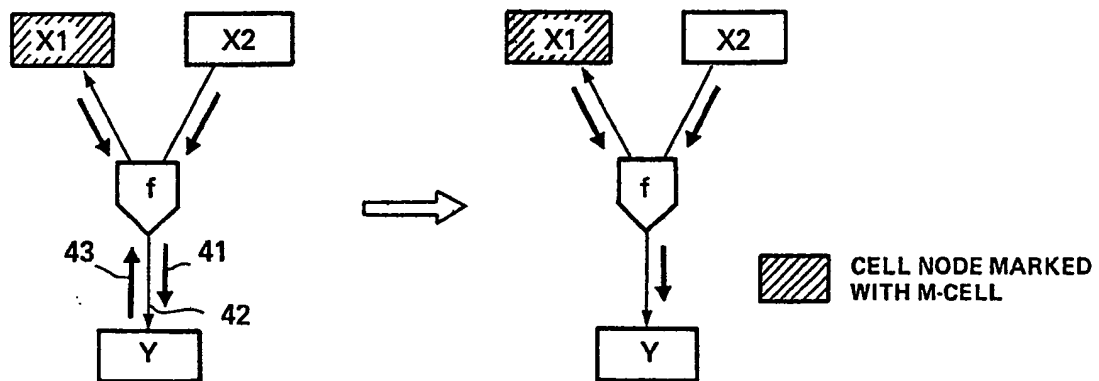
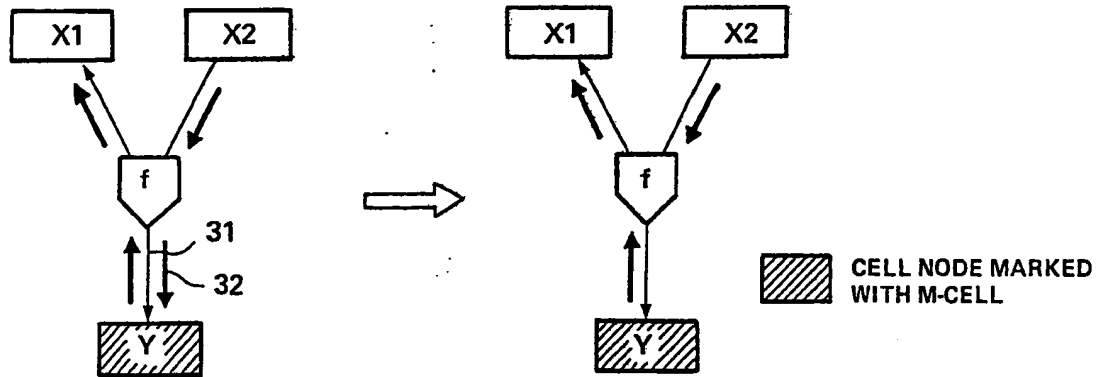
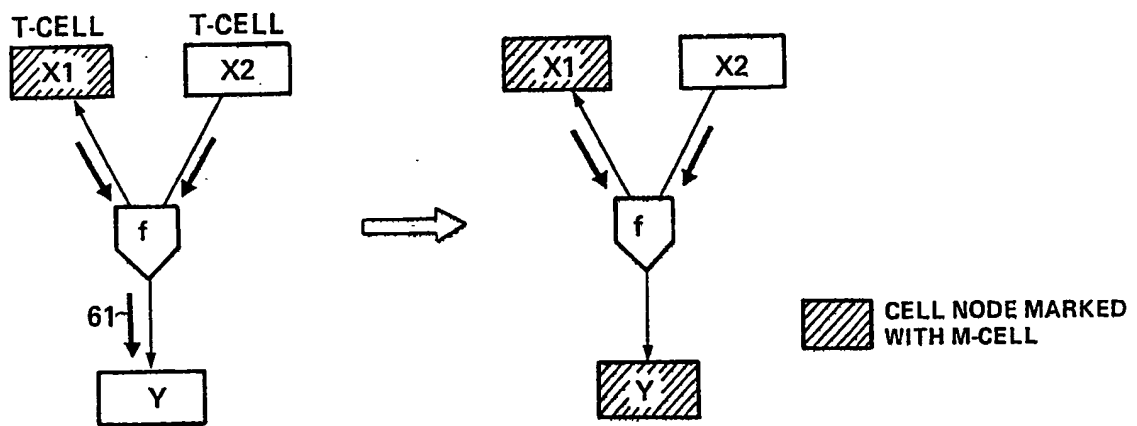
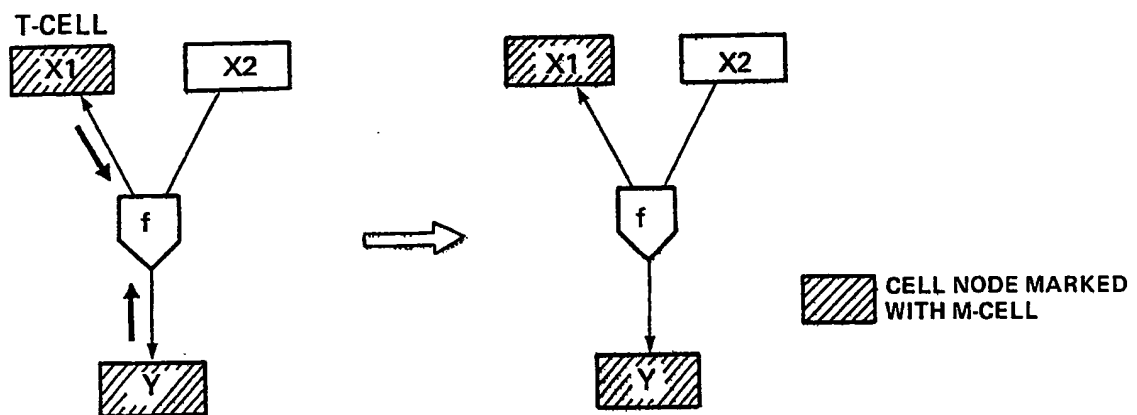


FIG. 10





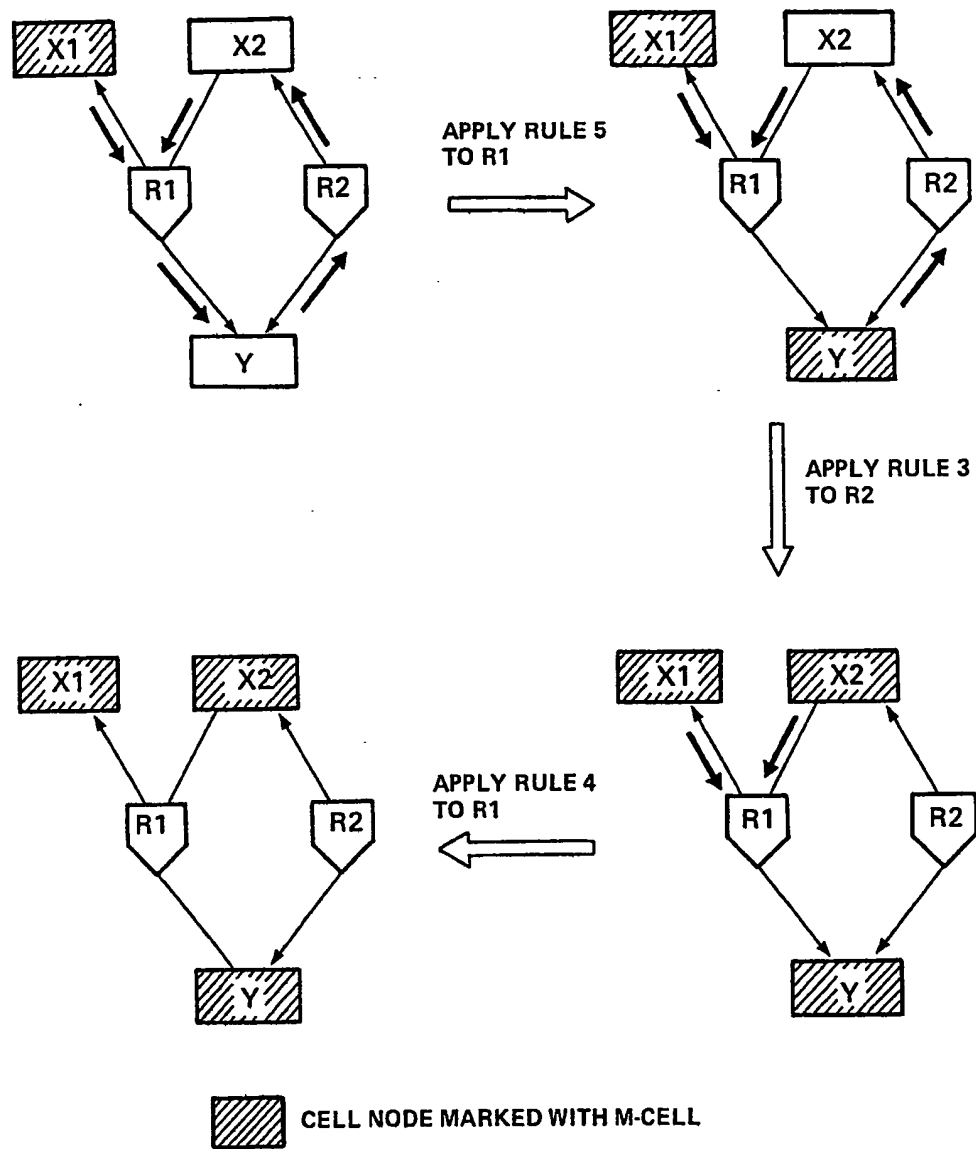
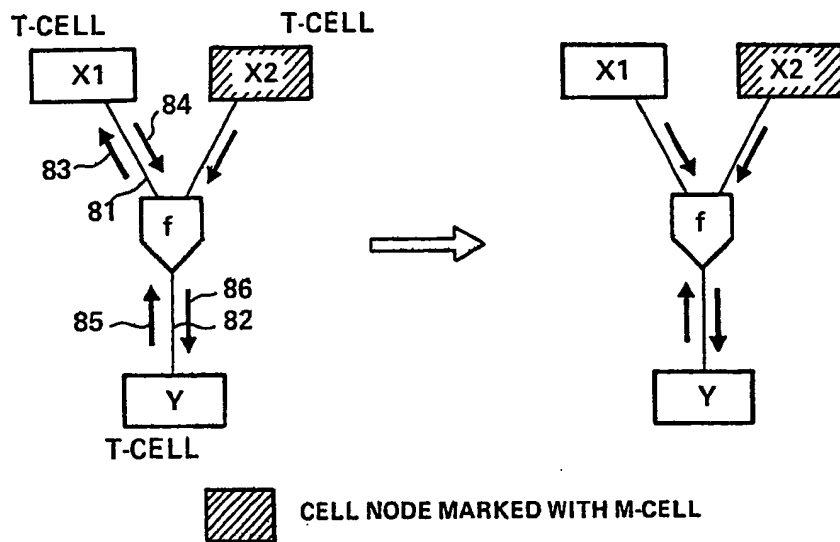
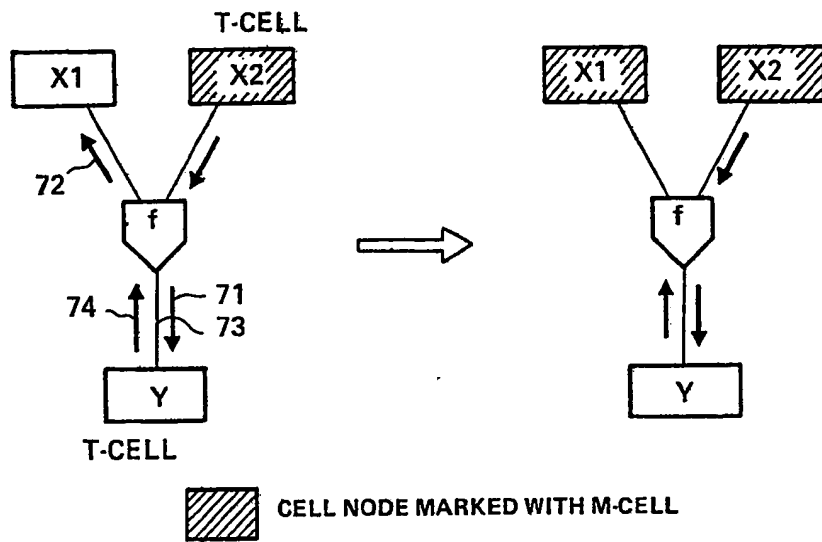


FIG. 16



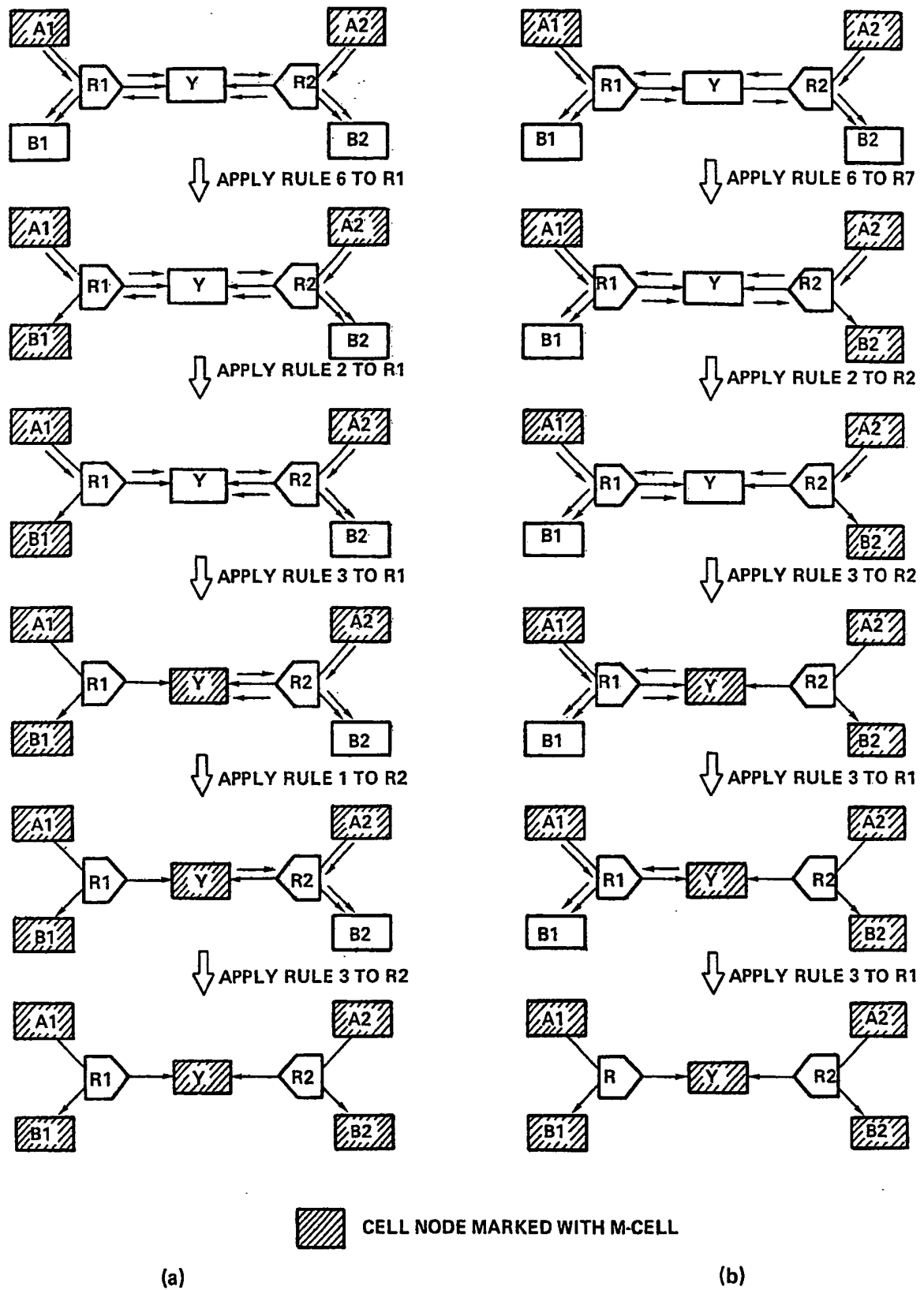


FIG. 18

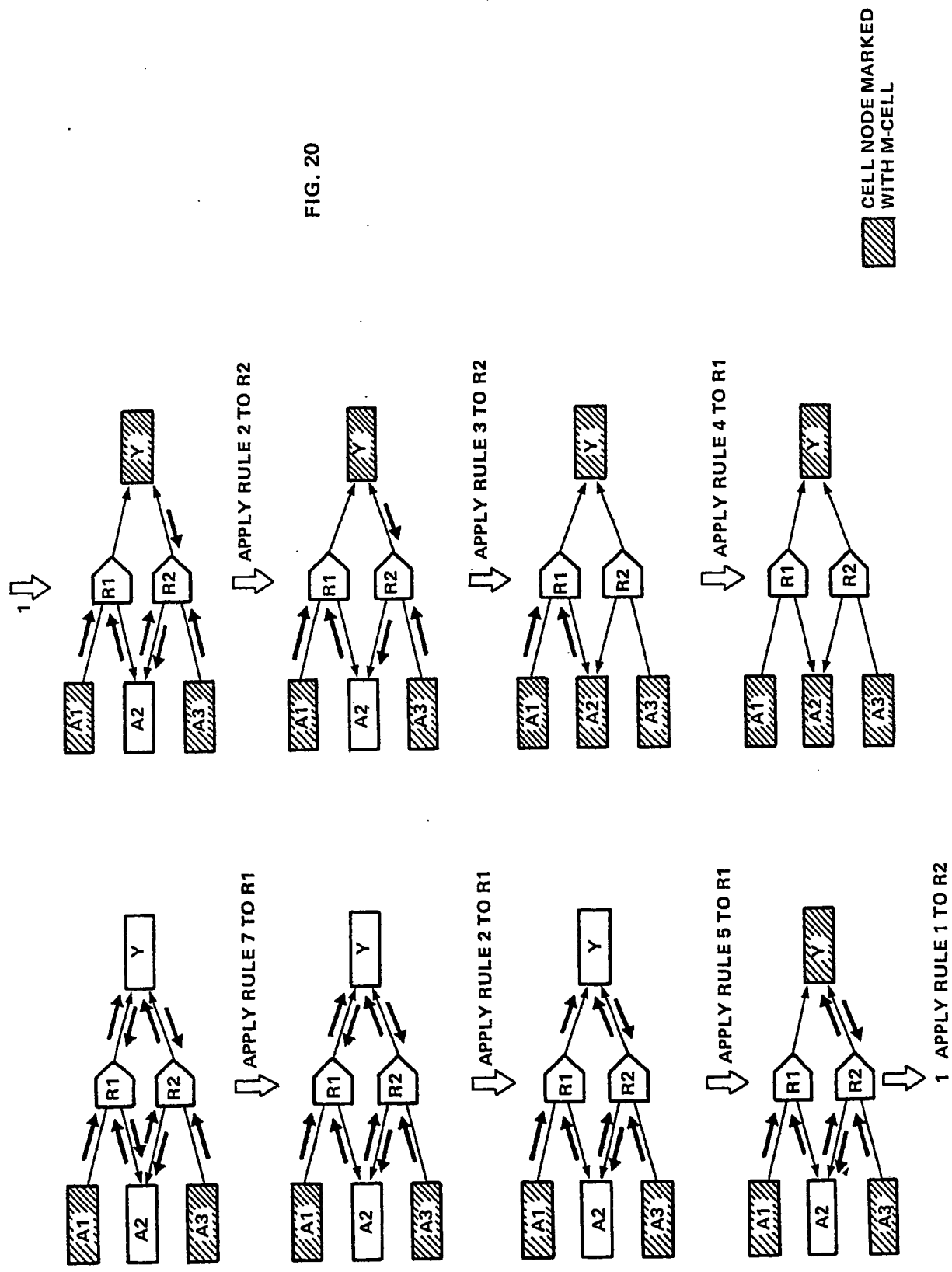


FIG. 20

	A	B	C	D
1		LOAN AMOUNT	REPAYMENT AMOUNT FOR TEN THOUSAND YEN	REPAYMENT AMOUNT
2	MONTHLY REPAYMENT AMOUNT	0	60	0
3	REPAYMENT AMOUNT FROM EACH BONUS	0	500	0
4	TOTAL AMOUNT	0		

RELATION DIFINITION

- (1) $B2 = B4 - B3$ PROPAGATION CONSTRAINT: B3
 (2) $D2 = C2 \times B2/1000$ PROPAGATION CONSTRAINT: B2
 (3) $D3 = C3 \times B3/1000$ PROPAGATION CONSTRAINT: B3

FIG. 21

	A	B	C	D
1		LOAN AMOUNT	REPAYMENT AMOUNT FOR TEN THOUSAND YEN	REPAYMENT AMOUNT
2	MONTHLY REPAYMENT AMOUNT	30000000	60	180000
3	REPAYMENT AMOUNT FROM EACH BONUS	0	500	0
4	TOTAL AMOUNT	30000000		

FIG. 22

	A	B	C	D
1		LOAN AMOUNT	REPAYMENT AMOUNT FOR TEN THOUSAND YEN	
2	MONTHLY REPAYMENT AMOUNT	20000000	60	120000
3	REPAYMENT AMOUNT FROM EACH BONUS	10000000	500	500000
4	TOTAL AMOUNT	30000000		

FIG. 23

	A	B	C	D	
1		LOAN AMOUNT	REPAYMENT AMOUNT FOR TEN THOUSAND YEN		
2	MONTHLY REPAYMENT AMOUNT	21600000	60	129600	
3	REPAYMENT AMOUNT FROM EACH BONUS	8400000	500	420000	
4	TOTAL AMOUNT	30000000			

FIG. 24

	A	B	C	D	
1		LOAN AMOUNT	REPAYMENT AMOUNT FOR TEN THOUSAND YEN		
2	MONTHLY REPAYMENT AMOUNT	22000000	60	132000	
3	REPAYMENT AMOUNT FROM EACH BONUS	8000000	500	400000	
4	TOTAL AMOUNT	30000000			

FIG. 25

	A	B	C	D
1	0	0		
	0	A1xA2		
2	0			
	0			

FIG. 26

	A	B	C	D
1	5	80		
	5	A1xA2		
2	16			
	16			

FIG. 27

	A	B	C	D
1	5	100		
	5	100		
2	16			
	16			

FIG. 28